

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims in the application are claims 2, 4, 6, and 8-23.

Allowable Subject Matter

The OA states that original claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has complied with the OA with regard to these claims, and therefore these claims are accordingly in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The OA rejects the original claims 9-12 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Maroné U.S. Patent 5,070,796. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection based on the distinctions set forth hereinbelow, especially in view of the amended claim 9.

Original claim 9 requires “a pair of cross leg members affixed to said pair of vertical leg members”. The OA asserts that Maroné items 5 and 20 in Maroné fig. 1 disclose such a pair of cross leg members. Applicant respectfully traverses this because Maroné plate 20 is not affixed to the pair of vertical leg members.

Original claim 9 requires “securement means at the top portions of said vertical leg members for releasably securing said vertical leg members to a portion of an external object to be supported by said leg assembly”.

The OA asserts that Maroné device 10 in Maroné fig 2 discloses such a securement means. Applicant respectfully submits that Maroné device 10 is not at the top portions of said vertical leg members.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, applicant has amended claim 9. It is respectfully submitted that Maroné does not teach “a pair of cross leg members rigidly and permanently affixed orthogonally to said pair of vertical leg members, nor securement means at the topmost ends of said vertical leg members for releasably securing said vertical leg members to a portion of an external object to be supported by said leg assembly”, as now required by amended claim 9.

In light of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Maroné 35 USC § 102 rejection, with a view toward withdrawing same.

The OA rejects claims 13-20 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Gottfredson U.S. Patent 6,561,470.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection based on the reasons set forth hereinbelow.

Claim 13 requires “a cross member releasably secureable to two or more of said substantially flat elongated workpieces to hold said workpieces in a substantially vertical position while said substantially flat elongated workpieces are drying”.

The OA contends that Gottfredson object hanger 30 in fig 8 teaches such a cross member. Applicant respectfully traverses this.

Applicant respectfully submits that Gottfredson object hanger 30 is not releasably secureable to two or more of said substantially flat elongated workpieces.

Applicant's claim 14 requires “a support bracket releasably connectable between said upper edge of said L-shaped member and said cross member to assist in holding said substantially flat elongated workpieces in substantially vertical position while said workpieces are drying”.

The OA asserts that Gottfredson positioning attachment 300 teaches such a support bracket. Applicant respectfully traverses this.

Applicant respectfully submits that Gottfredson positioning attachment 300 is not releasably connectible between the upper edge of the L-shaped member and a cross member releasably securable to two or more of said substantially flat elongated workpieces, as required by applicant's claim 14.

In light of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Gottfredson 35 USC §102 rejection with a view toward withdrawing same.

New claim 21 combines the subject matters of claims 10 and 1.

New claim 22 combines the subject matters of claims 10 and 2.

New claim 23 combines the subject matters of claims 22 and 4.

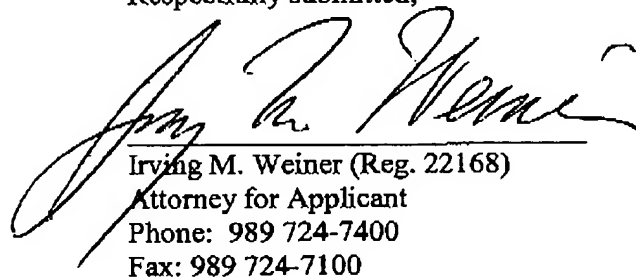
It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is not convinced that the application is now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner promptly telephone the undersigned attorney for applicant in an effort to facilitate the prosecution, and/or to narrow the issues for appeal, if necessary.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

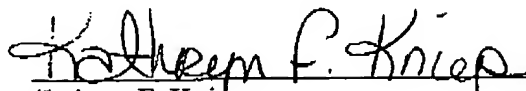
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Certificate of Facsimile

I hereby certify that the foregoing amendment and its mentioned enclosures were sent by facsimile to: Commissioner for Patents at 571-273-8300 on November 10, 2005.


Kathryn F. Kniep